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Towards global partnerships

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## Towards global partnerships

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005 and 62/211 of 19 December 2007,

*Reaffirming* the vital role of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

*Underlining* the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations and the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,

*Reaffirming* its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability,

*Taking note* of the continuing increase in the number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

*Recalling* the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation

[1] See resolution 55/2.



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they have received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit encouragement to pursue responsible business practices,

*Underlining* the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, can make concrete contributions to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

*Underlining also* the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

*Reiterating* that maintaining a comprehensive and diverse multi-stakeholder follow-up process to the Doha Conference held from 29 November to 2 December 2008, including with civil society and the private sector, is critical, bearing in mind the core responsibility of all participants in the financing for development process to exercise ownership of it and to implement their respective commitments in an integrated fashion, and welcoming, in this regard, the active participation of civil society and private-sector entities,

*Recognizing* the need, where appropriate, to enhance the for enhancing capacity of Member States to participate effectively member states for their effective participation in partnerships, at all levels, in accordance with national priorities and national legislation, and encouraging encourages international support for such efforts in developing countries,

*Emphasizing* that all relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other diseases,

*Welcoming* the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental, implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing

[2] See resolution 60/1.

such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

*Underlining* that, in the face of the multiple crises posed by the financial and economic crisis, soaring food prices and the threat of climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the private sector and civil society, is needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the potential that partnerships have in helping to more effectively implement internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Underlining also* the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair and equitable economic development and the fact that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

*Noting* with interest that the renewed call for values and principles in business in the wake of the financial and economic crisis has resulted in continued strong, and growing, private sector engagement in support of the United Nations goals,

*Reaffirming* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

*Welcoming* the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, which strive to integrate environmental, social and governmental issues into investment decisions,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, the United Nations Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

*Recognizing* the vital role the Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector in accordance with its General Assembly mandate,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;[3]

2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

[3] A/64/337

3. *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving these goals;

4. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. *Recalls* that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalls that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

6. *Recognizes* the role that public-private partnerships can play in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger as well as in implementing national strategies and action plans on social services delivery and in making progress towards more equitable health outcomes, bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies, and further recognizes the need for effective accountability and transparency in their implementation;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization;

8. *Takes note with interest* of the steps taken by the United Nations to place greater emphasis on impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability, requests that the Secretary-General ensure effective implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Private Sector, as an important step towards a more coherent system-wide approach to partnerships of the United Nations and the private sector, and encourages the specialized agencies to align their supplementary guidelines on their engagement with the private sector with the revised Guidelines;

9. *Invites* the United Nations, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage with private sector entities that demonstrate responsible citizenship by supporting the core values of the United Nations and its causes as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties, as well as through commitment to principles of the United Nations Global Compact, by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct, and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities to ensure that information on the nature and scope of major cooperative arrangements are available within the

concerned United Nations entity and to the public at large, securing transparency of cooperation with the public sector;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Global Compact to continue its activities as an innovative public-private partnership to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community, including through an increased number of local networks;

12. *Acknowledges* the positive contribution the United Nations Global Compact can make towards restoring and building confidence and trust in markets, and recognizes in this regard the importance of the 10 principles of the Global Compact;

13. *Welcomes* the establishment of a private sector forum in conjunction with the annual debate of the General Assembly in order to provide contributions by business and civil society to intergovernmental discussions, beginning with the United Nations Private Sector Forum established in September 2008, focusing on food sustainability in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and followed by the United Nations Leadership Forum on Climate Change in September 2009;

14. *Encourages* the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations Global Compact in order to support the promotion of public-private partnership projects and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as outlined in the relevant decisions of the African Union;

15. *Acknowledges* the ongoing work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces and commissions, within their respective mandates, and in this regard encourages the provision of adequate training, as appropriate;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations organizations and agencies, when engaging in public-private partnerships, to underscore the importance of social and environmental responsibility and market sustainability for the restoration of market confidence and sustainable growth, and encourages the private sector to better integrate into its sustainable corporate strategies social, environmental and governance criteria;

17. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships, including with the business community, as a contribution to the development of more effective United Nations partnerships;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance partnership management through the promotion of adequate training at all concerned levels, institutional capacity in country offices, strategic focus and local ownership, the sharing of best practices, the improvement of partner selection processes, calls upon United Nations entities that engage the private sector as partners in their work to allocate adequate resources and develop the policy frameworks and institutional capacities needed for engagement in a mutually beneficial way, and encourages the further development of United Nations private sector focal points for the purposes of learning and sharing best practices and information;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to promote, within existing resources, impact-assessment mechanisms of partnerships, taking into account best tools available, in order to enable effective management, ensure accountability and facilitate effective learning from both successes and failures;

20. *Welcomes* innovative approaches to use partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in support of the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and encourages relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

21. *Recommends*, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including on gender grounds, in respect of employment and occupation;

22. *Reiterates its call upon*:

(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means;

(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.